

to be an inspiration to so many people, including an organization from my home State of Michigan. The members of the Michigan FDR Committee used their time and talents to raise money to send a group of students and senior citizens from Michigan to Washington for the dedication of the Roosevelt Memorial.

The officers of the Michigan FDR Memorial Committee who are leading this delegation are Gerald T. Harris, Kathleen Jansen, Ken Pittaway, Meena Narula, Susan Purdy, Colleen Harris, Dennis Nauss, Cherie Maleyko, Jean Kearney and Charlie Brown. Guests of the committee are Heather Avery, Erik Bardram, Dan Browning, Jennifer Burss, Becki Cadarette, Mrs. D. Cadarette, Jill Carouso, Mary Jane Condon, Joe Cook, Sherrie Goble, Edna Heck, Paul Kuplicki, Jr., Heather Lotter, Rocco Marcola, Shona Narula, Vijay Narula, Deon Pearson, Stephen Rafter, Nehal Raval, Linda Shariak, Mario Smith, Barb Strojny and Cynthia Vlachos.

The presence of the Michigan FDR Memorial Committee delegation at the dedication ceremonies for the memorial is most welcome, and I encourage our colleagues to join me in welcoming them to Washington. •

#### EDITH PRATT "PATTY" MASTERSON

• Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I rise today to note the passing of Edith Pratt "Patty" Masterson. She died Sunday, April 20, 1997, at the age of 75.

Ms. Masterson was very active in Virginia politics, and her contributions to Virginia were noted in the Virginia Pilot newspaper in Norfolk. I ask that a February 16, 1997, article from the Virginia Pilot be included in the RECORD.

As the article indicates, for the past 6 years Ms. Masterson was active in public life as the chief lobbyist for Virginians Against Handgun Violence. Her most prominent victory with that organization was the passage of the one gun per month law in Virginia in 1992. Gun violence is a scourge that threatens the lives of our young people, and simply for her efforts to end gun violence, Ms. Masterson deserved recognition and high praise.

But Ms. Masterson's lengthy and remarkable public life, which began more than half a century ago, also deserves recognition. In the 1940's Ms. Masterson became the first woman to argue a case before the South Carolina Supreme Court, and she won her case. She also raised five children and later she went on to teach for 35 years. John Casteen, now the president of the University of Virginia, stated Ms. Masterson was the "best teacher I've ever seen." Ms. Masterson's participation in a variety of civic and educational organizations continued during her last years, and in 1991 she was named Hampton Roads Pioneer Woman of the Year.

Mr. President, I commend to this body and the American people the life and public service of Ms. Edith Pratt Masterson.

The article follows:

[From the Virginian-Pilot and the Ledger-Star, Feb. 16, 1997.]

PATTY MASTERSON: A VIRGINIA-MADE  
ACTIVIST

(By Margaret Edds)

The volume is thick as a phone book and appropriately covered in red. "Only in Virginia—1996," the title reads, calling to mind the state's proud promotional slogan, "Made in Virginia."

But the handiwork recorded in this fresh-off-the-copying-machine document is no cause for civic pride. The 200-page compilation is of 1996 Virginia newspaper clippings that feature guns and bloodshed. The sampling of Virginia murders, woundings, accidents and suicides is representative but incomplete.

Pages contain up to five clippings each, gathered by volunteers across the state. Virginians Against Handgun Violence oversaw the project. The League of Women Voters helped. The Center to Prevent Handgun Violence in Washington contributed. It is a chilling work.

"When it was clear last year that we were going to have absolutely nothing (in terms of gun-control legislation), it occurred to me that if you could clip all the events involving bloodshed by firearms, not the burglaries or the robberies, it might make an impression," said Patty Masterson, a retired Norfolk Academy English teacher who conceived the volume and last week helped distribute it around Capitol Square.

She was right. The page-after-page drumbeat of tragedy is first startling, then compelling, then exhausting. One of the women who provided clippings from the Richmond area recently quit. It was too dispiriting an exercise, she said.

This is the sixth winter since Masterson, then newly retired from the classroom, adopted the cause of handgun control and moved from Virginia Beach to a Richmond hotel room for a two-month vigil. As a volunteer lobbyist for Virginians Against Handgun Violence, she has become a fixture in the legislative halls, brightening committee rooms with her white hair, knit sweaters and welcoming smile.

In this role, Masterson has brought to bear all the skills that have sustained her through an adventurous 74 years—creativity, passion, good sense. The combination helped make her one of the first female attorneys in South Carolina, a Navy wife and enthusiastic mother of five, a popular teacher for 35 years and the force behind a series of seminars on how children learn.

But those characteristics have yet to penetrate the mass consciousness in the Virginia General Assembly. Masterson's most thrilling moments in Richmond were among her first. In the 1992 session, with then-Gov. L. Douglas Wilder leading the charge, lawmakers limited over-the-counter handgun sales to one per person per month.

"We did nothing to create it," Masterson said recently of the law, "but we had the fun of surfing in with it." Since then, Masterson and her gun-control colleagues have learned both the importance of having a governor in your corner and the frustration of going up against a lobby as entrenched as the National Rifle Association. Last year, all of the major legislation they supported died. This year, two of the three bills Masterson cared most about were not even heard in committee.

Her response, like a schoolmarm with a class of sluggards, has been to search for new

ways to make lawmakers sit up and take notice. "Only in Virginia" is one result. Masterson believes anyone who takes time to peruse its headlines—"Father Shot on Way Home," "Boy, 5, Shoots Mother With Father's Rifle," "My Only Son," Mother says after Slaying,"—must be moved to act.

Her commitment does not blind her to the limitations of gun control. "Even if the sale of handguns to civilians were stopped here and now, we'd still have problems because of the millions of handguns out there," Masterson acknowledged. But she also recognizes the consequences of inaction. "It can only get worse if we do nothing."

Not surprisingly, the shootings that Masterson most deplors are those involving domestic violence and children who accidentally set off guns. Such deaths or woundings "seem so unnecessary," she said. "To me, they are products of a proliferation of handguns."

At a minimum, she believes, gun sales should be limited to storefront transactions or—with private sales—to law-enforcement offices; purchasers should be required to take gun-safety courses, and trigger-locks should be required on guns.

As a student of human development, she also believes that society should do much more to guard against the eruption of violence. Gun-control advocates are "dealing with the tippity, tippity, tip of the iceberg," she said. Those working with preschool education and domestic relationships are closer to the core of the problem.

Legislative victories or no, what keeps her going is "a passion for living, for learning, learning, learning," she said. It's an attitude that qualifies Masterson as a state treasure, Made In Virginia. •

#### CYBER-CHATS

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, over a year ago, I began having online computer chats with students from around my home State of Vermont. These chats have been a lot of fun and very informative. The questions that the students have asked me reflect not only their interest in government and current events, but also the advantages that they have in terms of access to knowledge via the information superhighway.

Just 3 or 4 years ago, I could not have imagined coming back from a vote on the Senate floor, sitting down in front of my computer and having a conversation with a group of young Vermonters over 500 miles away. The advances in technology have amazed me, but so have the understanding students have about technology and what it means for all of our futures.

Students' questions have ranged from my legislation to protect the privacy of our online communications to United States policy toward Iraq to how to get them out of their next period math test. While I will never be able to help a student skip a math test, these discussions have convinced me of the thirst of our children for the opportunities these technologies represent and our responsibility as leaders to help provide them.

Last week, I had the unique opportunity to chat with students from one of the Nation's oldest running one-room schoolhouses in Granville, VT. I